

Gates of Praise Church

#2 Route Old 17 North  
Hillburn NY 10931

Pastor: Rev. Phillip Richards  
914 837-6157

August 8, 2019

Town Supervisor Michael Specht,  
Town Of Ramapo  
237 Route 59,  
Suffern NY 10901.

Re: The Gates of Praise Cemetery

Dear Mr. Specht:

I am the Pastor of the Gates of Praise Church, located (based on the tax map) at #2 Old Route 17 North, Hillburn, NY 10931. The Church and its attached cemetery is a historical landmark in this County. Consequently its influence and importance affect many in Rockland, and by extension their relatives/friends who no longer reside in the area.

The reason for my letter to you sir, is concerning the Gates of Praise Cemetery also known as Ramapo Presbyterian Cemetery, and Iron Works Cemetery. My organization acquired the property (Church and Cemetery) in 2004. As owner the Church is responsible for the reasonable maintenance of the cemetery. To this end we have tried our uttermost best to maintain the sacredness of this burial place. However due to circumstances beyond our control, we are now unable to financially do so.

It must be pointed out that more than 75% of our membership are now senior citizens on fixed income. Additionally, some though still members, have moved out of the county. We have also had to say good bye to a few who have passed away. About 25% of our membership comprised of young people and mostly children. It is upon this smaller group that the financial burden of the congregation rest.

As maintenance goes:

- (1) The Gates of Praise maintains the private road which used to be part of the Old Route 17 North. By that I mean every year we spend Thousands of dollars to plow it without any outside assistance. During the rest of the year, cutting the grass and removing

garbage left on that road by truckers and others. Note we do not own the road and cannot stop none Church members from dumping there. Thank God for the regular police presence, this has been a help.

- (2) During the winter season the cost of heating a solid stone building that has no insulation, you can imagine is astronomical. Electricity during the summer to cool the building puts quite a dent to our budget.
- (3) Besides the annual cost of repairs. The Gates of Praise pay for one of the public street lightings that is located on the piece of road that leads from the current Old Route 17 to the Church.

In summary: (a) the above financial obligations; (b) the aging population of our congregation; (c) migration of members; (d) and some death have put us in a situation where it is no longer possible to take care of cemetery as we used to. It must be noted that the Gates of Praise does not receive any grants from anyone, but is solely supported by free will offerings and Tithes from its current active membership.

The ministry of the Gates of Praise is not limited to its membership, but we are very involved in the community despite our limited resources:

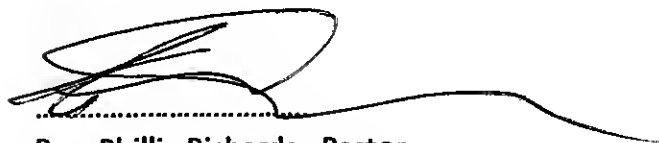
- (1) We offer a Pantry ministry that offer groceries to those who are in need
- (2) We have a back to school program that offer some limited school supplies to those in need.
- (3) We offer Thanksgiving baskets to the neediest so that their families are feed
- (4) We perform weddings, baby dedications and officiate at funerals.

We are truly a community Church, and do not charge the community for the services offered. In short the Church is not just a part of the historical landscape, but an important part of our community and beyond. Besides Rockland County, The Gates of Praise has members coming from Orange County, the Ramapo Brae and Stag Hill, Mahwah.

Coming back to the Cemetery, its historical importance is worth noting. Attached to this letter are print outs taken from the internet concerning some of the Rockland residents buried there. Just to mention one of them: Jeremiah Halsey Pierson, US Congressman.

In closing sir, we (the leadership and members of the Gates of Praise Church) are asking the Town of Ramapo to take on the responsibility of maintaining the Cemetery. Our congregation will also accept any other help with respect to the road and street light.

Respectfully

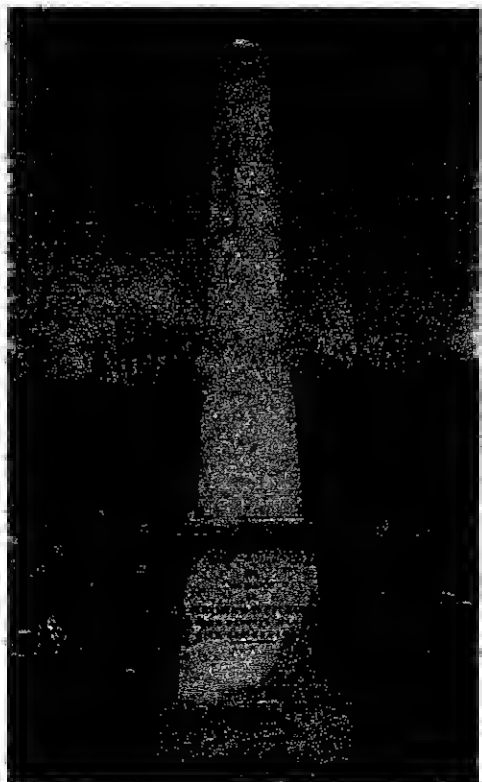
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rev. Phillip Richards', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rev. Phillip Richards - Pastor

Cc... Church Board



Photo added by Bill McKern



Added by L Mastan

## Jeremiah Halsey Pierson ★

<b>BIRTH</b>	13 Sep 1766 Newark, Essex County, New Jersey, USA
<b>DEATH</b>	12 Dec. 1855 (aged 89) Ramapo, Rockland County, New York, USA
<b>BURIAL</b>	Gates of Praise Cemetery Ramapo, Rockland County, New York, USA
<b>MEMORIAL ID</b>	7591654 · View Source

U.S. Congressman. Born in Newark, New Jersey, he studied law, was admitted to the bar and practiced law in Massachusetts. Moving to New York, in 1795, he practiced law and engaged in mercantile pursuits. He was justice of the peace in Ramapo, (1800-11), associate justice of the court of common pleas in 1808 and was instrumental in securing the construction of the Erie Railroad. In 1822, he was elected as a Republican to the Seventeenth Congress, serving until 1823. After his term, he resumed his former business pursuits until his death at age 89 in Ramapo, New York.

Bio by: John "J-Cat" Griffith

### Family Members

#### Spouse



*Sarah Colt Pierson*  
1772-1820

#### Children



*Elizabeth Pierson*  
Lord  
1794-1833



*Josiah Gilbert*  
Pierson  
1797-1845



*Jeremiah Halsey*  
Pierson  
1800-1851



*Theodore Pierson*  
1803-1816



*Henry Pierson*  
1807-1807



*Henry Lewis*  
Pierson

8/9/2019

Jeremiah Halsey Pierson (1766-1855) - Find A Grave Memorial



Added by LadyGoshen



Benjamin Franklin  
Pierson  
1811-1836

### How famous was Jeremiah Halsey Pierson?

Current rating: ★★☆☆☆ 13 votes

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*Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com>  
: accessed 9 August 2019), memorial page for Jeremiah Halsey

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Gates of Praise Cemetery - Rockland County, New York

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## Gates of Praise Cemetery Hillburn, Rockland County, New York

Lat: 41° 08' 07"N, Lon: 74° 10' 01"W

Gates of Praise Cemetery aka Ramapo Presbyterian Cemetery and Iron Works Cemetery. Near the entrance to Hillburn on Rte 17 near the new thruway inters approx. 2-3 miles north of Suffern NY



Click photo to enlarge

This is not a complete listing of all of the burials in this cemetery. The records below were contributors to Interment.net. Last edited Nov 06, 2010. Total records = 56.

*Contributor's Index:*

[\*] Anonymous

[MC] Maude Conklin [[doghaven@frontiernet.net](mailto:doghaven@frontiernet.net) (<mailto:doghaven@frontiernet.net>)]

[TG] Theresa M. Graham [[tmhg2@hotmail.com](mailto:tmhg2@hotmail.com) (<mailto:tmhg2@hotmail.com>)]

**Akins, Elizabeth**, d. 9/25/1800, age: 5/28/1868, w/o Jonathan Akins, [MC]  
**Bailey, Helen Pierson Whittmore**, d. 1/23/1904, d/o Albert and Jane Whittmore, [MC]  
**Belcher, John A.**, d. 11/22/185?, [MC]  
**Brinker, Edgar**, b. 1908, d. 1984 h/w Ethel 1907/1975, [MC]  
**Cabel, Charles**, b. 1870, d. 1935, [MC]  
**Call, Elizabeth Whitm?**, d. 1/24/1879, age: 57yr, s/w Henry G, [MC]  
**Call, Henry G.**, b. 1820, d. 1902 h/o Elizabeth Whitm???, d. 1/24/1879, age: 57yr, [MC]  
**Call, Jacob**, b. Jan 09, 1788, d. Feb 21, 1938, age: 50yr, [\*]  
**Call, John G.**, b. 5/23/1818, d. 2/22/?, [MC]  
**Call, Lucy**, d. 6/22/1872, d/o John G. and Rosanna Call, [MC]  
**Call, Rosanna**, b. 1819, d. 1903, [MC]  
**Cashman, Margret**, b. 3/25/1884 Bally Macoda Co. Cork Ireland, d. 11/7/1938, [MC]  
**Cashman, Mary**, b. 6/22/1861 in Bally Macoda Co. Cork Ireland, d. 1949, [MC]  
**Clement, Charles**, b. 1/6/1828, d. 1/7/1828, twins of Silas and Sally Ann Sprague, s/w John Henry, [MC]  
**Clement, John Henry**, b. 1/6/1828, d. 1/7/1828, twins of Silas and Sally Ann Sprague, s/w Charles, [MC]  
**Colt, Juelana Mrs.**, b. 1815, d. no date, w/o John Colt, [MC]  
**Conklin, Bert**, d. 1/4/1899, age: 26yr, [MC]  
**Conklin, Clara**, b. 1919, d. 1982, [MC]  
**Conklin, Elizabeth** 1840/1927, w/o Henry Conklin, [MC]  
**Conklin, Henry**, b. 5/16/1836, d. 7/19/1899, [MC]  
**Conklin, John N.**, d. 1866, age: 72yr, [MC]  
**Conklin, John N.**, d. 4/23/1860, age: 74yr, [MC]  
**Conklin, Judith**, b. 1941, d. 1954, [MC]  
**Conklin, Warren**, d. 10/19/1891, age: 26yr, [MC]  
**Durn, James**, 8/22/1907, age: 65yr, Vet. WW1, [MC]  
**Finch, Thomas**, d. 7/7/1872, age: 72yr, [MC]  
**Fisk, Caroline**, d. 2/19/1843, age: 23yr, w/o Henry Ro??, [MC]  
**Heacock, Jeremah**, d. 11/12/1860, age: 18yr, s/o Danial & Harriet Heacock, [MC]  
**Henion, Samuel**, b. 1863, d. 1926, [MC]  
**Huffman, John T.**, b. 1912, d. 1967, [MC]  
**Jenkins, Charles**, b. 1867, d. 1933 h/w Lucy 1877/1963, [MC]  
**Jenkins, Danial**, b. 1898, d. 1910, [MC]  
**Jenkins, Ernest**, b. 1905, d. 1951, [MC]  
**Jenkins, George Kay**, b. 1897, d. 1946, [MC]  
**Mapes, Julia Pierson**, b. 8/28/1878, d. 12/24/1955, d/o Henry Lewis Pierson and Bessie Chapin, [MC]  
**McElroy, Robert G.**, d. 10/15/1902, age: 65yr, [MC]  
**Osborn, George**, b. 1908, d. 1910, s/o Frank and Bertha Osborn, [MC]  
**Osborn, Nicholas**, d. 9/23/1864, age: 59yr, [MC]  
**Pierson, Mapes Herbert**, b. 4/3/1907, d. 9/1985, [MC]  
**Pierson, Sarah Elizabeth**, 2/14/1836, age: 4/13/1908, [MC]

**Slavin, Peter**, b. 1856, d. 1915, h/o Jennie Call, [MC]  
**Sprague, Caroline Amedlin**, d. 4/16/1825, d/o Silas & Sally Ann Sprague, [MC]  
**Sprague, Sarah Eveline**, d. 2/22/1825, d/o Silas & Sally Ann Sprague, [MC]  
**Springsteen, Samuel**, d. 5/16/1862, age: 30yr, [MC]  
**Starrs, Mary Ann**, d. May 01, 1852, age 63yr, w/o Samuel, [TG]  
**Taylor, Carol A.**, d. 1937, [MC]  
**Taylor, Edith**, b. 1893, d. 1943, [MC]  
**Taylor, John M.**, d. 1945, [MC]  
**Turner, Elizabeth**, b. 1/16/1791, d. 9/25/1814, w/o Arthur Turner, [MC]  
**VanTassel, Danial**, d. 1/1913, age: 58yr, [MC]  
**Whittington, Thomas**, d. 1842, [MC]  
**Woods, Sarah**, d. 9/13/1815, age: 42yr, s/w ZeBedee, [MC]  
**Woods, ZeBedee**, d. 1/17/1857, age: 82yr h/w Sarah Woods, [MC]  
**Wurch?, Alfred**, b. 11/27/1890, d. 1/26/1919, Vet. WW1, [MC]  
**Youmans, Edward**, b. 1909, d. 1953, [MC]

## New York Death Records

New York Newspapers, Full Search (1730-1998), 873 titles

([http://www.genealogybank.com/static/lp/internment/?](http://www.genealogybank.com/static/lp/internment/?state=new_york&ltype=or&utm_campaign=1204IT30lp&utm_source=1204IT30lp&utm_medium=-GenealogyBank.com)

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New York Obituary Search - (1986-current) ([http://www.genealogybank.com/static/lp/internment/?](http://www.genealogybank.com/static/lp/internment/?state=new_york&ltype=dr&utm_campaign=1204IT30lp&utm_source=1204IT30lp&utm_medium=-GenealogyBank.com)

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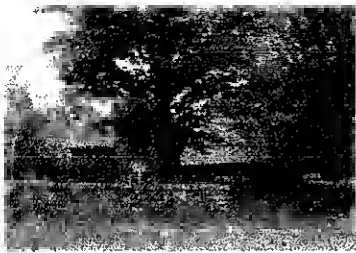
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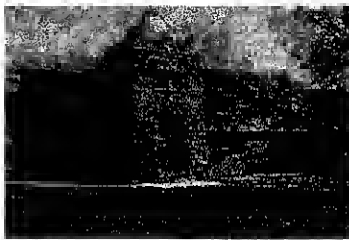
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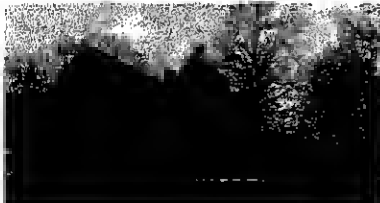
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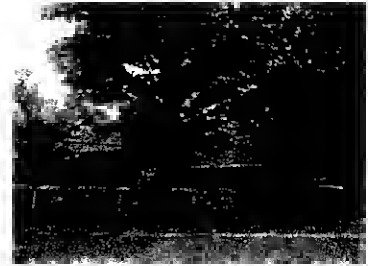
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